GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4750
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
BLOOD BANKS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blood banks in several hospitals and the Indian Red Cross Society are disposing off over 100 units of blood as waste due to their expiry date for use;

(b) if so, the quantum of such blood units disposed off during each of the last three years, hospital-wise;

(c) the reasons for not using the blood before the expiry date;

(d) the total units of blood collected by IRCS every year against the total requirement; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check this wastage of blood?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a),(b)&(c): No, Sir. Most blood banks in the country, including Indian Red Cross Society utilise blood/blood components within the expiry date. However, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has reported followingunits of blood disposed off during the last three years:

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1997 : 70 expired out of 23,405 units
1998 : 79 expired out of 23,308 units
1999 : 42 expired out of 21,203 units
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The reasons for not utilising blood units before the expiry date is mainly due to availability of some blood units of a specific blood group in excess of the demand at that particular period of time.

(d) Total units collected by Indian Red Cross Society is 40,000 units a year, approximately against a requirement of 3.5 lakh units (approx) for entire Delhi.

(e) The steps being taken by the Government to check this wastage are:

(i) Development of linkages between different blood banks in a city to avoid this type of wastage.

(ii) Strengthening and modernisation of blood banks in all districts of the country.

(iii) Establishment of more Blood Component Separation Units for the rational use of blood.

(iv) Comprehensive training programme of medical and professionals on the rational use of blood.

(v) Intensive education programme for recruitment of voluntary blood donors.